The Federal Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness: Home, Together

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Presenter

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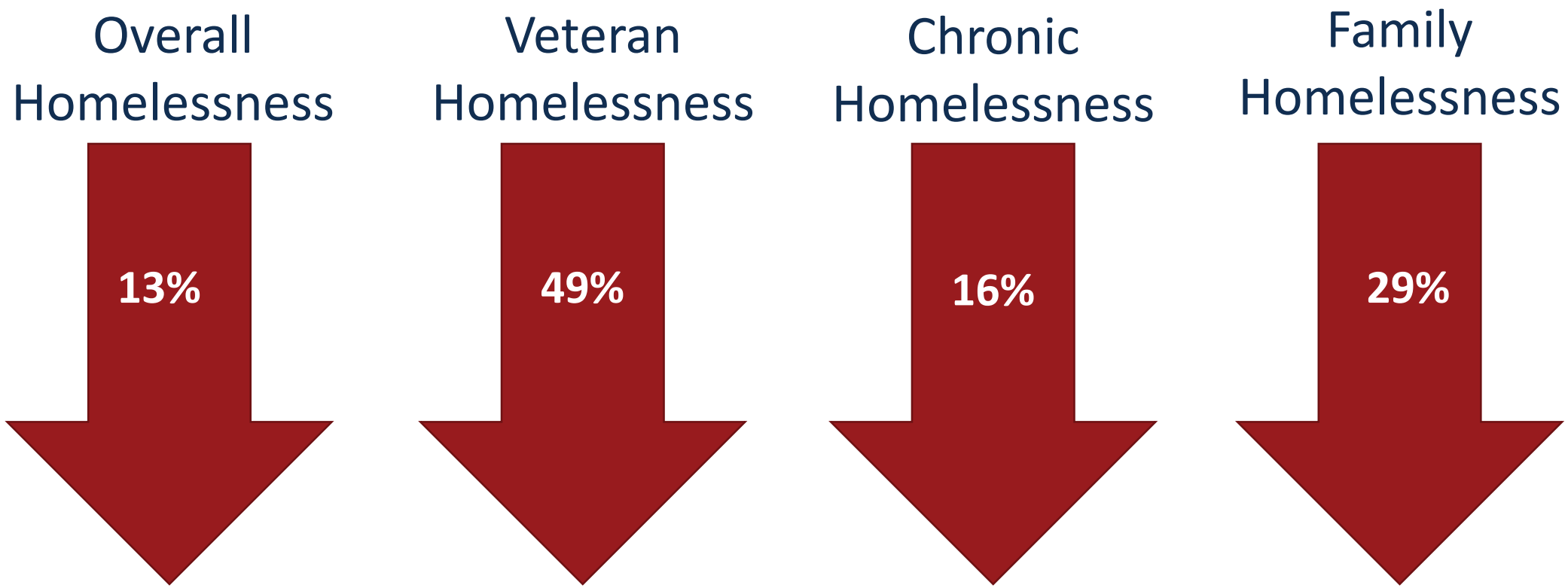
Coordinating the Federal Response

- The Council
- Council Policy Group
- Interagency Working Groups
- Performance measurement and accountability

Together we are ending homelessness

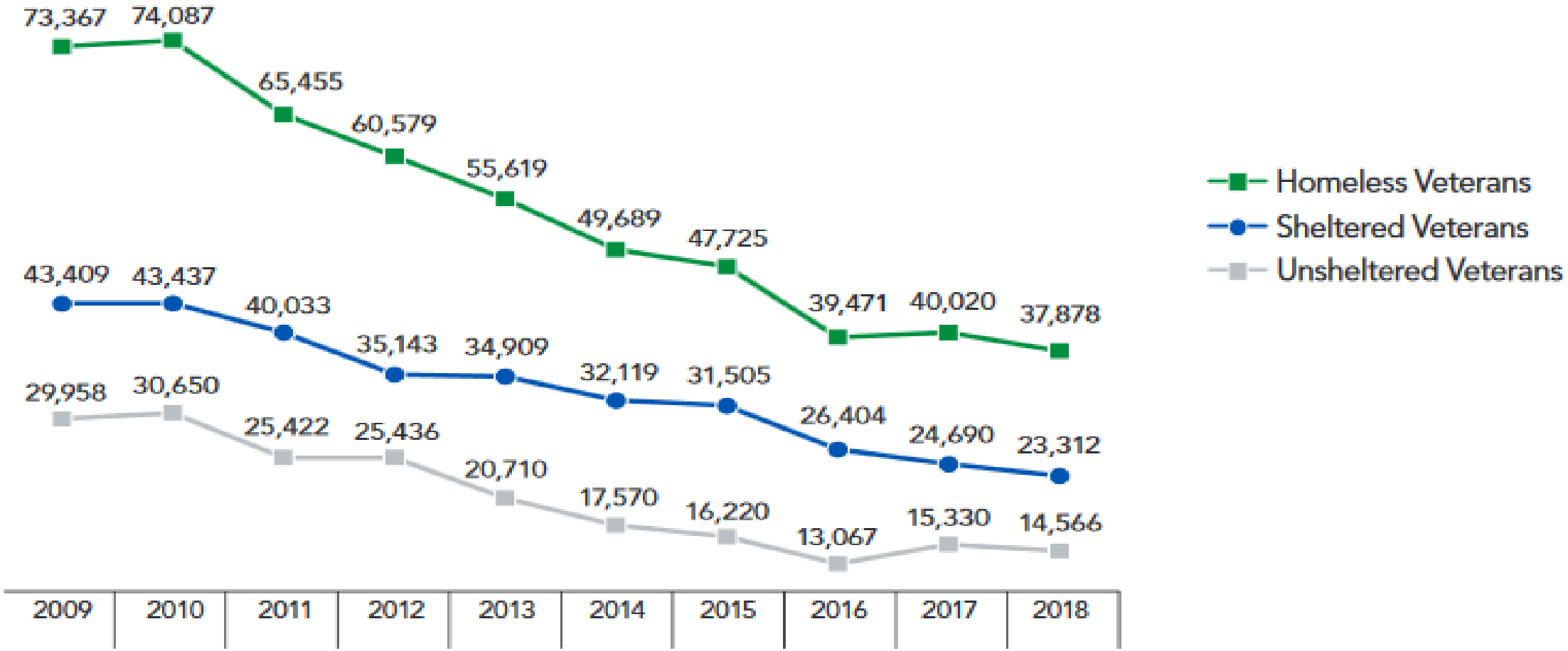
- We lead the national effort to prevent and end homelessness
- We drive action among our 19 federal member agencies and foster the efficient use of resources in support of best practices at every level of government
- Our Council is made up of senior leaders within our member agencies and meets quarterly to advance federal collaboration and support state and local activities
- We lead interagency working groups to design and implement federal strategies and provide expert guidance to state and local leaders

Our Results (2010-2018)



(Based on Point-in-Time Count Data, U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development)

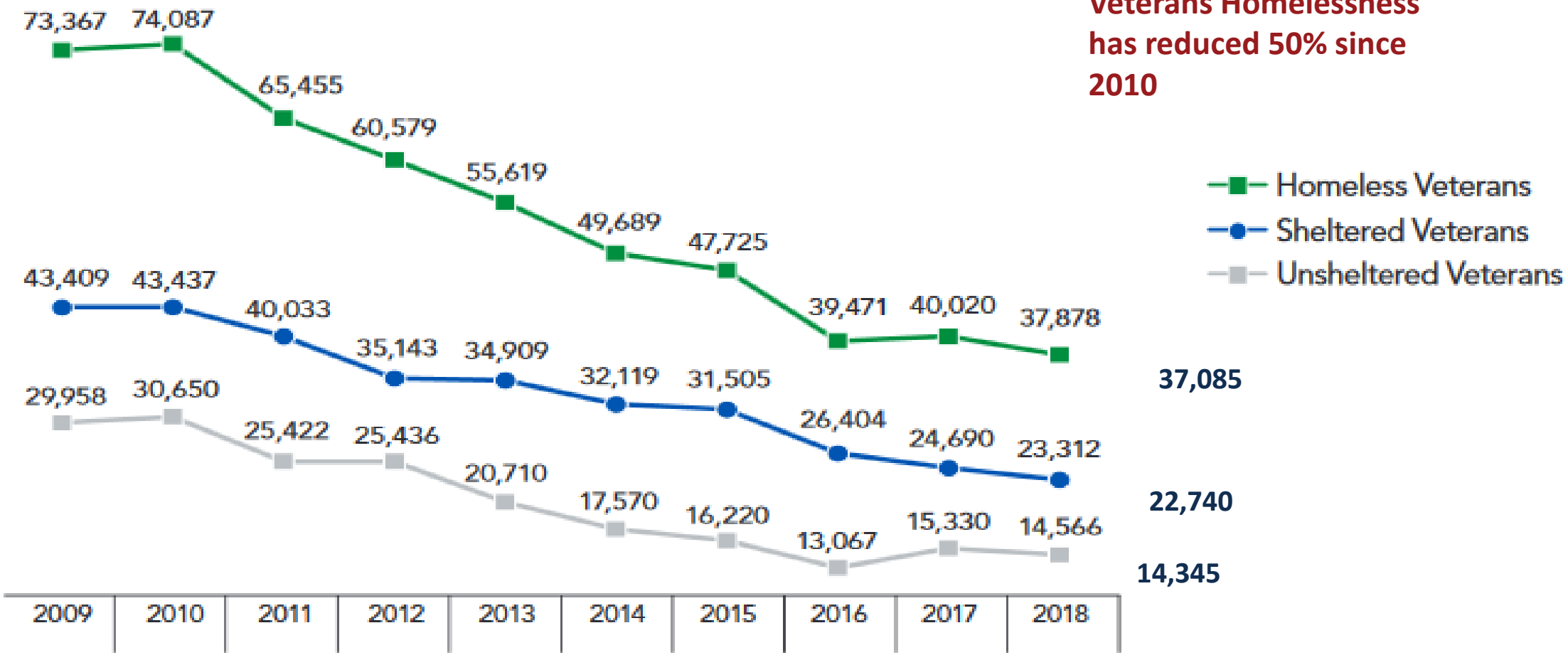
National PIT Data on Veterans Experiencing Homelessness for 2009-2018



From HUD Point-in-Time Data

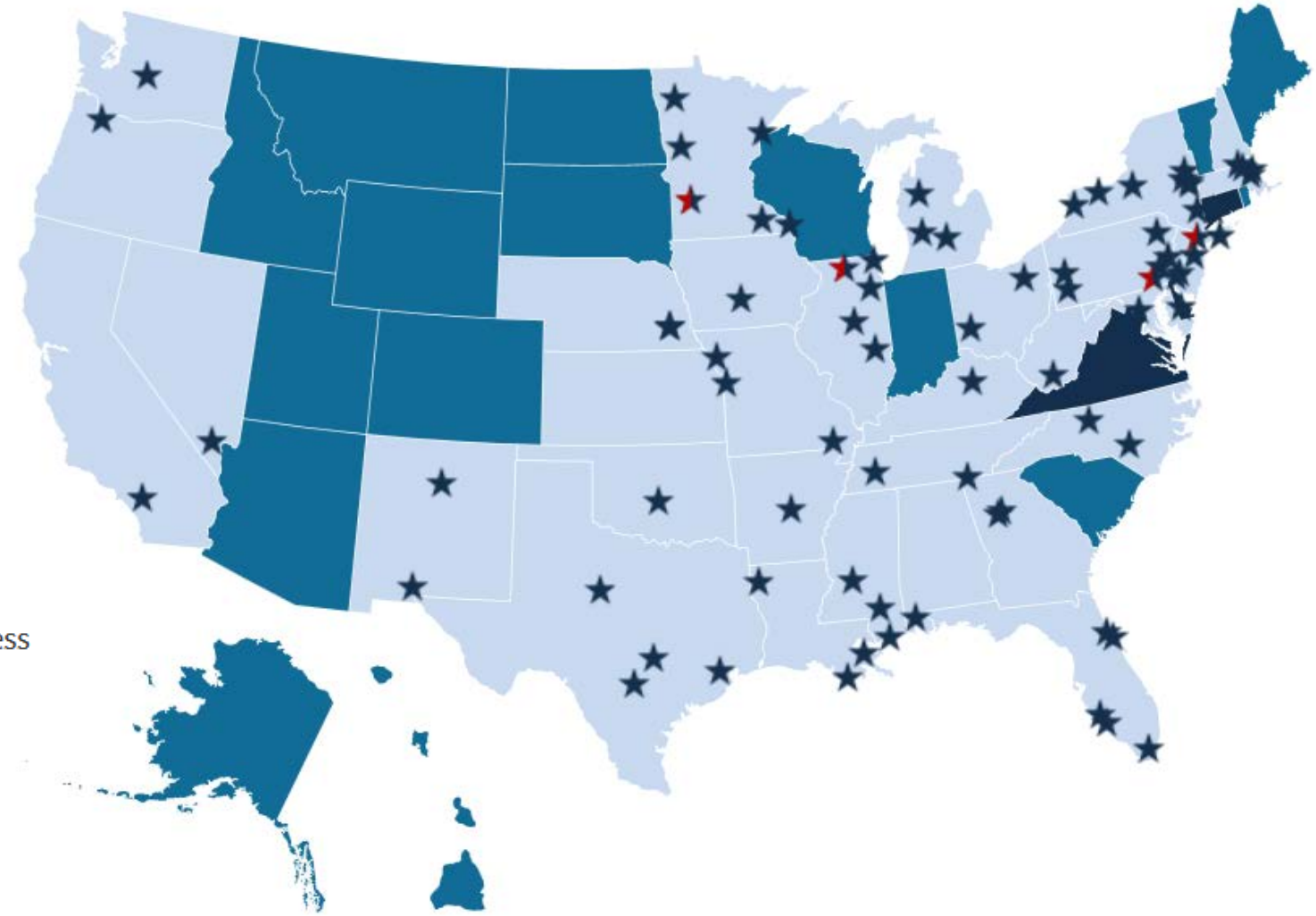
National PIT Data on Veterans Experiencing Homelessness for 2009-2019

Veterans Homelessness has reduced 50% since 2010



From HUD Point-in-Time Data

Communities that met the Federal Criteria & Benchmarks and have Ended Veteran Homelessness



★**78** communities and **3** states have ended Veteran homelessness

★ **4** communities have ended Chronic & Veteran homelessness

States that have at least one community that has ended homelessness

#HomeTogether
Read the Plan.
www.usich.gov/home-together
UNITED STATES INTERAGENCY COUNCIL ON HOMELESSNESS
DOMICILIA OMNIBUS AMERICARIS

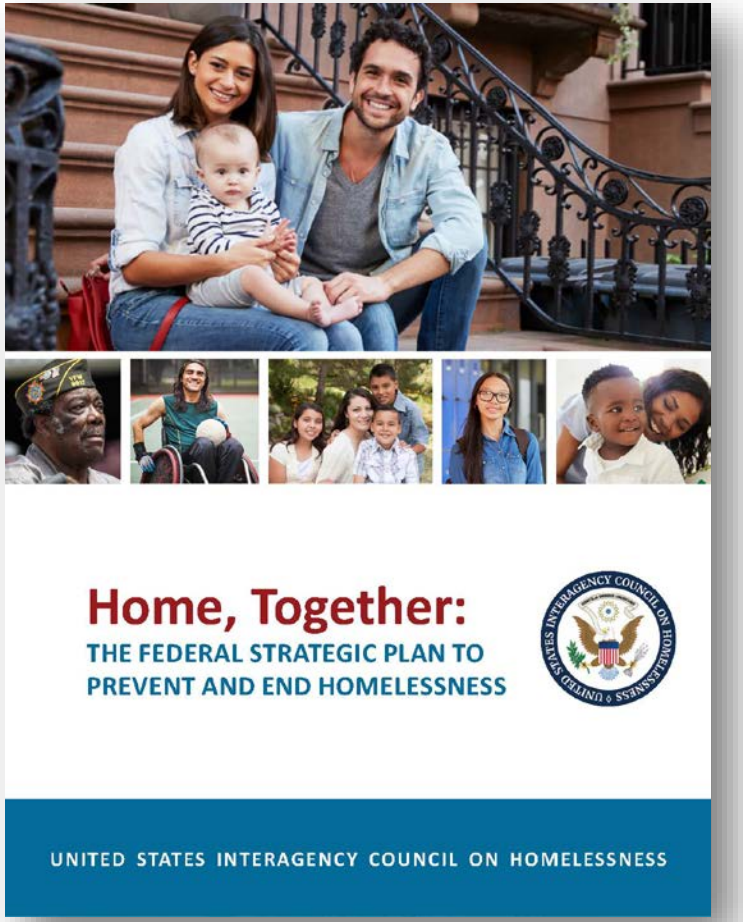
Home, Together: The Federal Plan

Home.

Because we know that the only true end to homelessness is a safe and stable place to call home.

Together.

Because the solutions are going to take all of us working together, doing our parts, strengthening our communities.



Our Shared National Goals

- Ending homelessness among **Veterans**
- Ending **chronic homelessness** among people with disabilities
- Ending homelessness among **families with children**
- Ending homelessness among **unaccompanied youth**
- Ending homelessness among **all other individuals**

Areas of Increased Focus

- Increasing **affordable housing** opportunities
- Strengthening **prevention and diversion** practices
- Creating solutions for **unsheltered homelessness**
- Tailoring strategies for **rural communities**
- Helping people who exit homelessness to find **career success and economic mobility**
- Learning from the **expertise of people with lived experiences of homelessness**

Multiple Levels of Prevention

- Activities that **reduce the prevalence of risk** of housing crises within communities
- Activities that reduce the risk of homelessness **while households are engaged with or are transitioning from systems**
- Activities that target assistance to **prevent housing crises that do occur from escalating further** and resulting in homelessness

Confronting and Addressing Inequities

- Developing our own and communities' skills and capacity to **apply a racial equity lens within our organizations and across our efforts** to prevent and end homelessness
- Analyzing **data regarding representation, access, and outcomes** and identifying disparities and inequities
- Moving conversations **forward without shortchanging need for internal work** within ourselves and our organizations
- Connecting to and **collaborating with other equity-focused efforts** in communities

Structure of the Plan

Operational definition:
Comprehensive response that ensures homelessness is prevented whenever possible, or if it can't be prevented, it is a **rare, brief, and one-time experience.**

Criteria and benchmarks:
Essential **elements of comprehensive systems** and the **outcomes those systems must be able to achieve**.

Ensure Homelessness is a Rare Experience

Objective 1.1: Collaboratively Build Lasting Systems that End

Objective 1.2: Increase Capacity and Strengthen Practices to Prevent Housing Crises and Homelessness

Ensure Homelessness is a Brief Experience

Objective 2.1: Identify and Engage All People Experiencing Homelessness as Quickly as Possible

Objective 2.2: Provide Immediate Access to Low-Barrier Emergency Shelter or other Temporary Accommodations to All Who Need It

Objective 2.3: Implement Coordinated Entry to Standardize Assessment and Prioritization Processes and Streamline Connections to Housing and Services

Objective 2.4: Assist People to Move Swiftly into Permanent Housing with Appropriate and Person-Centered Services

Ensure Homelessness is a One-Time Experience

Objective 3.1: Prevent Returns to Homelessness through Connections to Adequate Services and Opportunities

Sustain an End to Homelessness

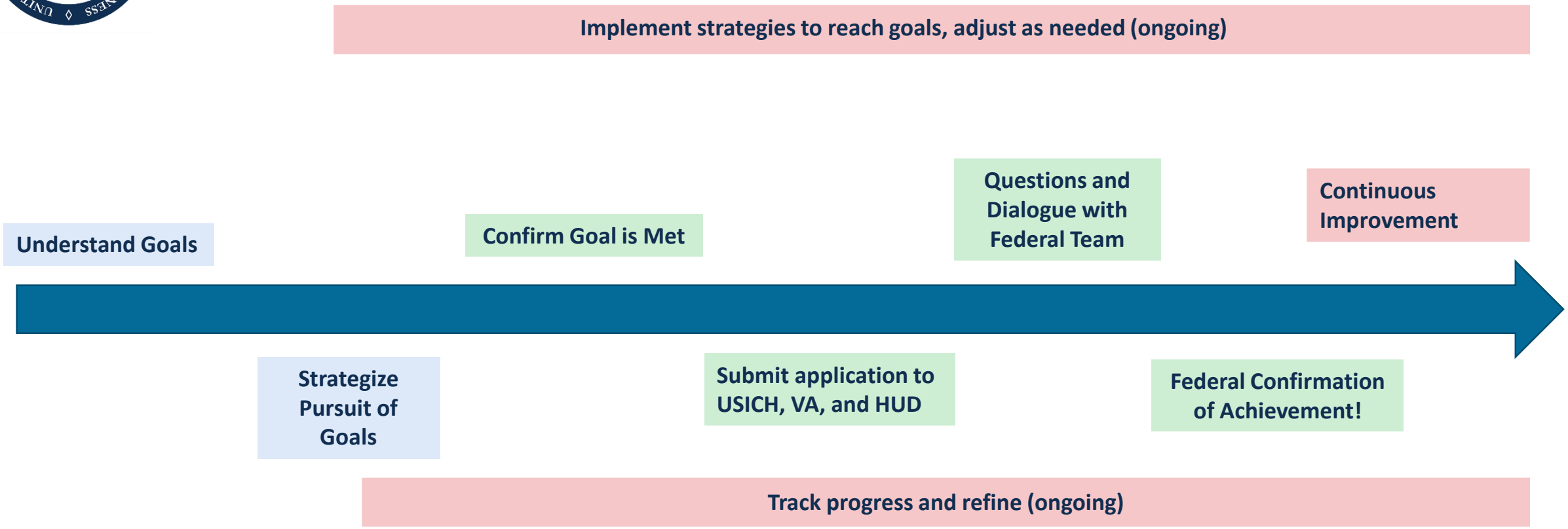
Objective 4.1: Sustain Practices and Systems at a Scale Necessary to Respond to Future Needs

Opportunities for Dialogue & Action

The Plan:

- Offers the opportunity for communities to engage with USICH and Regional Coordinators
- Provides a framework and a platform for local community conversation
- Includes strategies for how leaders from all levels of government working with the private, non-profit, and faith sectors can come together
- Sets goals for federal agency partners to measure performance

Federal Confirmation Process



Federal Criteria for Ending Veteran Homelessness

1. The community has identified all veterans experiencing homelessness.
2. The community provides shelter immediately to any veteran experiencing unsheltered homelessness who wants it.
3. The community provides service-intensive transitional housing only in limited instances.
4. The community has capacity to assist veterans to swiftly move into permanent housing.
5. The community has resources, plans, and system capacity in place should any veteran become homeless or be at risk of homelessness in the future.

Federal Benchmarks for Ending Veteran Homelessness

A. Chronic and long-term homelessness among veterans has been ended (with few exceptions, including those who choose GPD to address clinical need)

B. Veterans have quick access to permanent housing (90 days or less on average, with few exemptions including those who choose Transitional Housing/GPD after declining PH)

C. The community has sufficient permanent housing capacity

D. The community is committed to housing first and provides service-intensive transitional housing to veterans experiencing homelessness only in limited instances.

GPD Considerations in Relation to the Criteria and Benchmarks

- Offer Veteran-Centric services based on choice and needs
- Offer all Veterans an appropriate permanent housing intervention prior to GPD referral and enrollment
- Discuss, at least monthly, permanent housing plan with Veterans while in GPD
- Engage with the community to use a Master List and Case Conferencing that expedites housing opportunities by ensuring communication and coordination
- Use lower barriers to entry and provide case management that results in termination only in most extreme cases

Service Intensive Transitional Housing

- Veterans who choose to enter any service-intensive transitional housing are provided with ongoing opportunities to express a preference for, to request, and to access a permanent housing intervention instead, through an at-least monthly review of their individualized service and housing plans and their desired outcomes for services and housing.

- Veterans who have been offered an available permanent housing intervention but have declined and instead chosen to enter a transitional housing program in order to appropriately address a clinical need are exempted from both Benchmarks A (chronic/long-term) and B (90 day average time to housing placement).

Benchmarks: Exempt Categories

Veterans in limited circumstances may be categorized within exempted groups that are not included within the calculation of Benchmarks A and B, including:

- **Group 1**: Veterans experiencing either chronic or long-term homelessness who have been identified and offered a permanent housing intervention within the last two weeks but who have not yet accepted.
- **Group 2**: Veterans who have been offered an available permanent housing intervention but declined and have instead chosen to enter the transitional housing program.
- **Group 3**: Veterans who have been offered and accepted a permanent housing intervention prior to entering transitional housing but are not able to immediately enter the permanent housing.

Grid summary of the exempted groups that Veterans in a transitional status *may fall within under Benchmarks A and B, noting that there are no exempted groups for calculating Benchmarks C and D*:

Veterans Staying in the Following GPD Models …	Are Considered as Staying in …	Under Benchmark A …	Under Benchmark B …
Low Demand	Service-Intensive Transitional Housing	Some of these Veterans may fall within Exempted Group 2	Some of these Veterans may fall within Exempted Group 2
Hospital to Housing	Service-Intensive Transitional Housing	Some of these Veterans may fall within Exempted Group 2	Some of these Veterans may fall within Exempted Group 2
Clinical Treatment	Service-Intensive Transitional Housing	Some of these Veterans may fall within Exempted Group 2	Some of these Veterans may fall within Exempted Group 2
Service Intensive	Service-Intensive Transitional Housing	Some of these Veterans may fall within Exempted Group 2	Some of these Veterans may fall within Exempted Group 2
Bridge Housing	Bridge Housing	Some of these Veterans may fall within Exempted Group 3	None of these Veterans fall within any Exempted Group
Transition in Place	Permanent Housing	None of these Veterans fall within any Exempted Group	None of these Veterans fall within any Exempted Group

Sustainability: Eternal Vigilance

- Uphold committed core leadership teams and engaged service networks
- Use data and benchmarks to monitor system effectiveness
- Integrate collaboration into CoC Governance and Coordinated Entry
- Plan shared trainings and clear communication protocols
- Integrate use of Master List and case conferencing into standard network operations
- Continue to recruit housing partners and landlords, and manage open unit portfolio
- Respond to emerging needs with new innovations such as a Rep Payee program or landlord mitigation funds

Helpful Tools and Information

- https://www.usich.gov/tools-for-action/homelessness-in-america-focus-on-veterans/
- Criteria and Benchmarks: https://www.usich.gov/tools-for-action/criteria-for-ending-veteran-homelessness/
- Questions to Assess Whether Your Community Has Ended Veteran Homelessness
- Case studies from successful communities
- Master List Template and Benchmark Generation Tool, developed by HUD and its partners, to help you manage your active list and calculate the benchmarks
- Mayors Challenge: https://www.usich.gov/solutions/collaborative-leadership/mayors-challenge/

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Community Panel Discussion